

Rodriguez issues statement on President Obama's State of the Union speech **Washington, DC –**

U.S. Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) issued the following statement on President Obama's State of the Union speech Wednesday night:

"During difficult times, we all have to tighten our belts. That's what people all over the 23rd

Congressional District have told me and I have heard them. I've been calling for wiser spending for months and the proposed freeze that President Obama announced Wednesday night is a signal that the Administration is getting it. This proposal will cut \$250 billion from the deficit over ten years.

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The two most important things we can do to get our economy back on track are create jobs and be fiscally responsible. Anyone who follows my record closely knows I have taken a strong stand against spending that isn't absolutely necessary to stimulate our economy. That's why I voted against bailing out automakers and big banks. Instead, I voted for a much-needed stimulus and legislation that requires Congress to pay as we go (PAYGO).

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A deep and serious recession has forced us to strike a fine balance between getting our economy back on track and overspending our way back into trouble. But we're beginning to fix the problems created over the last several years. Jobs are being created, people are getting back to work and middle-class families are beginning to see change. It will take time, but we're well on the way.

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We're getting ourselves back on track by building up small business, funding our nation's security infrastructure, bolstering educational opportunities for young people and creating a future we all benefit from.

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In the end, one thing is certain – this isn't a Republican versus Democrat issue. It's an American issue. I will continue fighting for what's best for our District and the American people."

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